

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Applicants canceled claims 1-4, 10-15, and 28-37. Applicants neither amended nor added any claims.

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a synchronous storage device of a network element coupled with a network ring, the synchronous storage device to store data received at a first data transfer rate defined by a transmission standard;

an asynchronous storage device of the network element coupled with a network ring, the asynchronous storage device coupled to the synchronous storage device; and

control circuitry coupled to the synchronous storage device and to the asynchronous storage device, wherein the control circuitry is to transmit the data at the first data transfer rate from the synchronous storage device to the asynchronous storage device and wherein the control circuitry is to output the data from the asynchronous storage device at a second data transfer rate defined by a second communication transmission standard.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the synchronous storage device is a synchronous first-in-first-out register array.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the asynchronous storage device is an asynchronous first-in-first-out register array.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first data transfer rate is greater than the second data transfer rate.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein a storage area of the synchronous storage device is larger than a storage area of the asynchronous storage device.
10. – 15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:  
a synchronous storage device of a network element coupled with a network ring, the synchronous storage device having a first storage area and coupled to receive data at a first data transfer rate defined by a communication transmission standard;  
an asynchronous storage device of the network element coupled with the network ring, the asynchronous storage device having a second storage area and coupled to the synchronous storage device, wherein the first storage area is larger than the second storage area; and

control circuitry coupled to the synchronous storage device and the asynchronous storage device, wherein the control circuitry is to transfer the data at the first data transfer rate from the synchronous storage device to the asynchronous storage device when the second storage area is not full and wherein the control circuitry is to output the data from the asynchronous storage device at a second data transfer rate defined by a second transmission standard.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the data of the first data transfer rate is part of a signal using the Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) standard.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the data at the second data transfer rate is part of a signal using the Data Signal (DS)-3 standard.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the synchronous storage device includes a synchronous first-in-first-out register array.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the asynchronous storage device includes an asynchronous first-in-first-out register array.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first data transfer rate is faster than the second data transfer rate.

22. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
- receiving data based on a Data Signal (DS)-3 standard from a payload of Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) frames, wherein the SONET frames are being transmitted on an Optical Carrier (OC) signal;
  - extracting the data based on the DS-3 standard from the payload of the SONET frames;
  - storing the data in a synchronous first-in-first-out register array (FIFO) having a first storage area;
  - transferring the data from the synchronous FIFO to an asynchronous FIFO having a second storage area, wherein the first storage area is larger than the second storage area; and
  - outputting the data based from the asynchronous FIFO at a DS-3 data rate on a T3 signal.
23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the OC signal includes an OC-48 signal.
24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the OC signal includes an OC-3 signal.

25. (Original) A line card on a network element comprising:
- a synchronous first-in-first-out register array (FIFO) having a first storage area and coupled to receive data based on a Data Signal (DS)-3 standard from a payload of Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) frames, wherein the SONET frames are being transmitted on an Optical Carrier (OC) signal;
  - an asynchronous FIFO having a second storage area and coupled to the synchronous FIFO, wherein the first storage area is larger than the second storage area; and
  - control circuitry coupled to the synchronous FIFO and the asynchronous FIFO, wherein the control circuitry is to transfer the data from the synchronous FIFO to the asynchronous FIFO when the second storage area is not full and wherein the control circuitry is to output the data from the asynchronous FIFO at a DS-3 data rate on a T3 signal.
26. (Original) The line card of claim 25, wherein the OC signal includes an OC-48 signal.
27. (Original) The line card of claim 25, wherein the OC signal includes an OC-3 signal.
28. – 37. (Canceled)

38. (Original) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving data based on a Data Signal (DS)-3 standard from a payload of Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) frames, wherein the SONET frames are being transmitted on an Optical Carrier (OC) signal;

extracting the data based on the DS-3 standard from the payload of the SONET frames;

storing the data in a synchronous first-in-first-out register array (FIFO) having a first storage area;

transferring the data from the synchronous FIFO to an asynchronous FIFO having a second storage area, wherein the first storage area is larger than the second storage area; and

outputting the data based from the asynchronous FIFO at a DS-3 data rate on a T3 signal.

39. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the OC signal includes an OC-48 signal.

40. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the OC signal includes an OC-3 signal.